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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**Principal School Medical
Officer**

for the year 1958

I. D. LETTCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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To: The Chairman & Members of the Education Committee.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service for the year 1958.

The programme of routine medical inspections was satisfactorily maintained and 5,407 pupils were examined as compared with 4,869 in the previous year. Parents were present at 68.5% of the inspections. The general condition was reported as unsatisfactory in 0.61% of the pupils inspected as against 1.1% in 1957. The average heights and weights of school children taken at the routine inspections has been computed yearly since 1953. A study of these figures reveals the expected sex differences at the three ages (5+, 10+ and 14+) such as the consistently greater weight of fourteen year old girls as compared with boys of the same age and whilst the figures fluctuate from year to year there is no indication of a changing trend in height or weight in the six years referred to.

Cleanliness surveys revealed a continuing hard core of children with verminous heads and there was even an increase in incidence as shown in the results of the survey carried out in the second half of the year. The efforts of the school nurses in coping with this problem are praiseworthy but in many of the cases today, the incidence being much lower than in former years, the verminous child is merely the outward manifestation of more profound family social problems.

A much larger programme of preventive inoculations was carried out than in previous years and the additional task of vaccinating 14,794 school children against poliomyelitis

had to be given some priority over other work. Nevertheless the B.C.G. vaccination scheme was also fully implemented and 809 13 year old boys and girls were vaccinated by the staff. In addition 956 school children were given re-inforcing inoculations against diphtheria. I am grateful for the help and understanding of parents and teachers in making the complex administration of all these schemes seem less formidable.

I regret that the year has been less satisfactory for the dental service. Due to the staff situation only half the number of pupils were dentally inspected as compared with 1957, although the number actually treated was almost 80% of the corresponding figure for the previous year. The incidence of dental defects found continues at a high level and 80.3% of the children inspected had defects in varying degree. Towards the end of the year it was obvious that owing to the complete lack of full-time dental officers the only means of continuing the service was by the employment of dentists (in N.H.S. practice) on a sessional basis.

There were no significant changes in the services for handicapped children and as usual a considerable time and effort was expended in the assessment and placement of backward children and of children with emotional disturbances. With maladjusted children, there is a need for a greater appreciation of the fact that emotional illness, like physical illness requires treatment the nature of which, such as the removal of a child from his home environment for a time, is mistaken for some form of punishment or otherwise misunderstood; and yet such a remedy based on sound psychiatric principles may be the only course of preventive treatment if a child is to avoid serious breakdown in the

future. Children with certain physical handicaps and other conditions have benefitted considerably from the new Cleadon Park Special School where there were 37 new entrants during the year. The lack of a speech therapist has been keenly felt although at the time of writing, the vacancy has been filled and it is expected that the new speech therapist will take up her duties towards the end of 1959.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for their valuable help and guidance. I would also refer to the staff of the Education Department for their excellent co-operation and in particular to the former Deputy Director of Education, Mr. W. D. Dixon, for his many years of interest and support of the School Health Service. Finally I would express my indebtedness to my staff for their excellent work in what has been a full and busy year.

I. D. LEITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Principal School Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,
SOUTH SHIELDS.
June, 1959.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

Staff.

The establishment of the School Health Services consists of one whole-time and three part-time school medical officers; one principal, two whole-time and one part-time dental surgeons; the equivalent of eight full-time school nurses; one school nurse at the Open Air School; two dental attendants and one assistant nurse.

The service is under the administrative control of the Medical Officer of Health who is the Principal School Medical Officer.

**THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE IN RELATION TO
SCHOOLS MAINTAINED BY THE AUTHORITY.**

	<i>Special schools.</i>	<i>Other schools.</i>
Number of children on registers at the end of 1958	272	18,610
Average attendance for the year	233	17,331
Percentage of average attendance for the year	85.35	93.05
Number of schools	2	50
Number of nursery classes and accommodation	2 classes with accom- modation for 60.	

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

1. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

	<i>Number of parents present.</i>	<i>Number of children inspected.</i>
Entrants	1,561	1,805
Other periodic inspections	1,751	1,987
Leavers	392	1,615
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3,704	5,407
	<hr/>	<hr/>

2. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of special inspections	1,646
Number of re-inspections	1,775
	<hr/>
Total	3,421
	<hr/>

General Condition.

The following is a classification of the general condition of the children examined at routine medical inspections.

	<i>Number.</i>	
Satisfactory	5,374	99.39 per cent.
Unsatisfactory	33	0.61 do.

The high standard of nutrition was well maintained during the year.

Cleanliness Surveys.

Two routine surveys were carried out throughout all schools in the town by the school nurses. Head Teachers were given lists of children who required attention and cleansing notices to this effect were posted to the parents concerned. At the end of each survey Head Teachers were informed of the results. The continuing improvement effected by this arrangement is very satisfactory.

19,204 children were examined at the first survey and 18,882 at the second. The percentage of children found to be unclean at these inspections were 3.5 and 4.3 respectively.

This compared with the previous nine years, is satisfactory, and shows a steady decline.

1949.....	19.9%	19.8%
1950.....	19.0%	18.1%
1951.....	10.8%	7.1%
1952.....	7.6%	7.1%
1953.....	8.2%	7.2%
1954.....	6.3%	5.8%
1955.....	5.9%	5.9%
1956.....	5.1%	4.2%
1957.....	4.2%	3.3%
1958.....	3.5%	4.3%

The average and extreme percentages of uncleanliness in the departments during the year were as follows:—

<i>1st Survey.</i>	<i>Overall.</i>	<i>Best.</i>	<i>Worst.</i>
(a) Senior Boys	0.5%	0.1%	1.8%
(b) Senior Girls	2.4%	0.6%	8.6%
(c) Infants	3.3%	1.3%	6.6%
(d) Senior Mixed	3.7%	2.0%	11.7%
(e) Junior Mixed	4.1%	0.3%	19.9%

<i>2nd Survey.</i>			
(a) Senior Boys	0.5%	0.2%	1.1%
(b) Senior Girls	2.2%	0.8%	5.8%
(c) Infants	3.8%	0.4%	9.7%
(d) Senior Mixed	4.3%	1.7%	17.7%
(e) Junior Mixed	5.3%	0.5%	20.9%

The figures for uncleanness again show that there has been a great effort to maintain last year's excellent results. It is significant that at the first survey there were three schools with less than 1% uncleanness and four schools with the same good record at the second survey. The efforts of the school nurses have made the children and their parents cleanliness conscious and they are to be congratulated on their excellent work. We are also indebted to the valuable co-operation of the teaching staff.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Number of children attending the school clinic in 1958	1,613
Number of children treated	1,044

The total number of attendances was 6,404 as compared with 7,616 in 1957.

Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

During the year 130 cases were submitted for refraction to the School Medical Officer and 1,194 to other sources. 1,316 had spectacles prescribed and 1,266 were supplied during the year. In addition 36 children had their squints corrected by operation at the Ingham Infirmary.

82 children attended the clinic for treatment or observation in other eye conditions.

Diseases and Defects of the Ear, Nose and Throat.

Many cases were again dealt with by Mr. P. McMurray, the ear, nose and throat surgeon. He attended 35 sessions at the school clinic during the year. 324 children were referred to him by the school medical officers. These children made 490 attendances and 167 were referred by the surgeon for operations for middle ear disease, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and sinus and antrum infections.

In all, 619 school children received treatment in hospitals, referred either by the School Health service or by the family doctor. In addition, 98 children received other forms of treatment for diseases of the ear, nose and throat at the clinic.

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

During 1958, 79 cases were referred to the orthopaedic department at the Ingham Infirmary.

Of these cases 75 children had feet defects, 3 had knee abnormalities and one had a deformity of the hand.

Other types of cases also seen by the surgeon included a case of ganglion, one child with hypospadias, a boy requiring an operation for hernia, and one boy who was treated for hydrocele.

As in previous years the feet defects were mainly valgus ankles associated with fallen arches. Physiotherapy and the provision of suitable shoes were generally effective in producing an early improvement. Subsequent supervision was always advisable however.

The orthopaedic surgeon and his staff are again to be commended on the efficient manner in which they have carried out their important work.

Diseases of the Skin.

680 children received treatment at the clinic as follows:—

Ringworm (scalp)	2
Ringworm (body)	8
Scabies	12
Impetigo	60
Other skin diseases	598

Age-Group.	1957		1958	
	Respiratory.		Respiratory.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5—9 years	2	5	1	4
10—14 years	4	4	5	3
Total	15		13	
	Non-Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
5—9 years	—	1	—	—
10—14 years	2	1	1	—
Total	4		1	

For the ninth year in succession no deaths occurred in these age groups from tuberculosis.

The following table shows the *average yearly* notifications of and deaths from tuberculosis among children of school age in five-year periods since 1921:—

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
1921-25 ...	62	17	62	14
1926-30 ..	49	13	71	14
1931-35 ...	35	11	65	16
1936-40 ...	21	3	40	6
1941-45 ...	25	2	30	5
1946-50 ...	27	1	15	3
1951-55 ...	27	—	7	—
1956	18	—	1	—
1957	15	—	4	—
1958	13	—	1	—

B.C.G. Vaccination of 13 year old scholars.

The results of B.C.G. testing and vaccination are given in the sub-joined table, together with a comparison of the figures for 1957.

It must be emphasised that this is probably the only opportunity most of the children will ever have of being protected from tuberculosis and certainly the period when the greatest number are eligible. Such protection will carry them over the years of their lives when they are most susceptible.

	1957	1958
No. of 13 year old children on registers	1,737	1,552
No. of children offered tuberculin testing and vaccination if necessary	1,737	1,552
No. of consents received	1,167	1,086
Percentage of consents	67.2%	70%
No. of refusals	322	325
No. not returned ...	213	116
No. vaccinated or tested previously	17	12
No. already notified as tuberculous ...	18	13

	1957		1958	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
No. given first Tuberculin Test...	585	553	481	470
Positive	86	61	77	69
Percentage* ...	14.7	11.0	14.5	12.4
Negative	485	484	402	396
Percentage* ...	82.9	87.5	75.8	71.2
No. given second Tuberculin Test...	485	484	428	438
Positive	50	25	19	23
Percentage* ...	8.5	4.5	3.6	4.1
Negative	415	447	400	409
Percentage* ...	70.9	80.8	75.5	73.6
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	415	446	400	409
Percentage* ...	70.9	80.7	75.5	73.6
No. given third Tuberculin Test after vaccination (selected cases only)	71	74	Nil.	Nil.
Positive	71	74	—	—
Negative	—	—	—	—
Not ascertained	—	—	—	—
No. invited to be Mass X-rayed ...	415	342	322	307
No. actually Mass X-rayed	398	333	153	163
Found to be tuber- culous	—	1	—	—
Other defects found	3	2	3	4

*Percentage of number of children tested.

Mass Radiography.

629 children of the 13 year old age group who were positive on testing or had refused testing were later invited to be X-rayed by the Mass Radiography Unit. 316 were actually X-rayed. Seven showed abnormal conditions and were referred to the Chest Clinic, but were subsequently found not to be tuberculous.

These results were highly satisfactory and should help towards the ultimate reduction of the incidence of tuberculosis in the 15/24 age group which at present has the highest attack-rate.

One class and all the staff of a school where a case had occurred were X-rayed. Result 71 had films taken, 4 were referred to Chest Clinic and 1 of these was subsequently confirmed as active tuberculosis.

Another school where a case had occurred were all X-rayed. Result 873 had films taken, 8 were referred to Chest Clinic and were subsequently proved not to be tuberculous.

School Contacts.

In addition to the above vaccinations, scholars who were in contact with cases at home were offered vaccination by the Chest Physician and the numbers so vaccinated were as follows:—

1951	5 children.
1952	31 „
1953	16 „
1954	16 „
1955	42 „
1956	34 „
1957	46 „
1958	66 „

Health Visiting.

The health visitors paid 395 visits to homes of school children to ascertain whether the necessary treatment was being obtained. 30 visits in connection with uncleanliness,

300 visits after surgical and dental treatment, 52 in connection with orthopaedic cases, 404 regarding educationally sub-normal children, 66 in connection with child guidance cases, 128 regarding children for B.C.G. vaccination and 897 follow-up visits on discharge from hospitals.

In addition 155 visits were paid to the schools for routine medical inspections apart from 585 visits to the schools in connection with cleanliness surveys.

The health visitors and school nurses also attended 496 sessions at the general school clinics, 10 sessions at the dental clinics, 94 sessions for artificial sunlight treatment, 8 sessions for immunisations, 35 sessions at the ear, nose and throat clinic, 48 sessions for B.C.G. vaccination, 6 sessions for screen-testing of deaf children and 462 sessions in connection with vaccination against poliomyelitis. In addition the health visitors attend child welfare and other clinics.

Ultra-Violet Ray Therapy.

29 children of school age made 427 attendances for treatment by ultra-violet radiation, including treatment by the Kromayer Lamp.

The following is a summary of the conditions treated:—

	<i>Improved</i>	<i>Ceased attending</i>	<i>Still attending</i>	<i>Total</i>
Debility	2	—	1	3
Bronchitis	5	—	2	7
Alopecia	6	—	—	6
Psoriasis	2	—	—	2
Other conditions...	11	—	—	11
Total	26	—	3	29

Diphtheria Immunisation.

80 children of school age were immunised for the first time during the past year by the medical staff of the Health Department or by private medical attendants as under:—

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Number.</i>
5	45	10	2
6	17	11	7
7	1	12	4
8	4	13	—
9	—	14	—

In addition, 1,401 children under five years were immunised.

It was estimated that at the end of 1958, 87.5 per cent. of the school children in the Borough and 66.1 per cent. of the children under five years of age had been immunised.

956 school children received reinforcing or “boosting” injections during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

By the end of 1958, 14,794 school children (81.3 per cent.) and 4,989 (56.9 per cent.) of children under 5 years of age had received one or more injections.

Physical Education.

The following is the report of the Physical Education Organisers, Mr. W. Yelder and Miss J. W. Thomson:—

During the year the work in the schools proceeded satisfactorily and without interruption. The large majority of schools have some form of indoor accommodation for physical education so that the continuity of the work can be preserved throughout the year. When the weather is suitable the teachers are encouraged to take classes out of doors so that the work can be extended in scope and variety and more games skills can be practised. Inclement weather does, however, interfere with field games and the wet weather experienced during the summer term curtailed the time spent on cricket, athletics and rounders.

The policy of gradually equipping all schools with climbing and vaulting apparatus and equipment was continued during the year and more infant schools were supplied with such apparatus. The provision of plimsolls is probably the most important item of equipment in all schools and enables the

fullest value to be derived from all lessons, both indoor and outdoor, and in particular enables the climbing and vaulting apparatus to be utilised to the full by all children.

During the year the new Whiteleas Junior School was opened. It is well equipped for physical education with assembly hall, level playgrounds and three and a half acres of playing fields and is another welcome addition to existing facilities.

Once again very good results were obtained in swimming and life-saving. The schools gained 722 life-saving awards and this enabled them to win the William Henry Cup (1949) of the Northumberland and Durham Branch of the Royal Life-Saving Society for the sixth successive year. This Branch Cup is awarded to the Association gaining the highest total of awards of all classes during the year, and the swimming instructors and teachers are to be congratulated on maintaining such a high standard for six successive years. Although such good results were achieved in life-saving the teaching of non-swimmers is still the basic aim of the swimming instruction and excellent results were recorded in the examinations for the certificates of the Education Authority, 1,702 certificates being awarded during the year. This is the second highest total ever gained and it is gratifying to note that this figure includes the record total of 1,072 beginners' certificates.

The various Schools Sports Associations carried on their good work of providing opportunities for children to take part in organised games and sports, out of school hours, and all reported a very satisfactory year. The Schools Football Association have a membership of 48 teams, so that over 500 boys take part in league matches every week. There must be few towns of comparable size where so many organised school football matches are played each week of the season. The Rugby Football Association, although handicapped by a shortage of men teachers with a knowledge of the game, enthusiastically carried out their usual programme of friendly matches. The Cricket Association have 33 teams competing in three leagues and in spite of another wet summer the full programme of matches was successfully completed. The

Athletic Association organised the usual annual Championships and sponsored a team of boys and girls who competed in the Durham County Championships. The All England Schools Athletic Championships were staged in July at Houghton-le-Spring. This is the first time that this important meeting has been held in Durham County and three children from the town were included in the Durham County team. In addition arrangements were made for a large party of pupils interested in athletics to attend as spectators. The Swimming Association once again organised a successful Gala which rounded off the good work done during the year in the teaching of swimming and life-saving.

The girls' Games Associations continue to flourish and expand. Netball is still the main winter game and the standard of play has reached a high level. Three tournaments are held in the town throughout the year, two for Secondary Schools and one for Junior Schools, and it is pleasing to note that 100% of the Secondary Schools take part and an increasingly high percentage of Junior Schools. The Secondary Schools also take part in inter-town and County tournaments, and in County trials, this year with excellent results—Stanhope being the winners of the inter-town tournament. Five girls from Redwell and Cleadon Schools were selected for the County team. Hockey is not yet played on a very large scale, principally owing to lack of facilities. This difficulty is gradually being overcome and it is hoped that this game also will become traditional in the schools. The summer season culminated with a successful rounders tournament held at Redwell County Secondary School.

During the year it was possible to arrange a one-day course in the coaching of tennis for women teachers in County Secondary Schools. The carry-over value of this game should make it one of the most useful games for older children and as in hockey, the difficulties of providing suitable playing facilities for this game are gradually being overcome.

In an effort to popularize badminton in Secondary Schools and encourage more children to play the game after leaving school a special demonstration of the game was arranged

in co-operation with the South Shields Badminton Association. This demonstration will be followed by a coaching course for boys and girls conducted by members of the Association.

School Baths.

The attendance of children at the Derby Street Public Baths in school parties during 1958 was as follows:—

Boys	35,056
Girls	20,550

Total	55,606
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A special weekly session is held for children who have been crippled with poliomyelitis and is having very beneficial results. There were 337 attendances recorded.

Average Heights and Weights of School Children 1958.

Age	No. of Children		Height (in inches)		Weight (in lbs.)	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5-6	808	794	44.30	43.91	44.70	43.40
10-11	890	963	54.75	53.59	73.37	72.70
14-15	576	660	62.80	61.53	109.69	112.03

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK.

Free Meals—Dinner only.

Total number of meals supplied to children during the year 1958—220,042.

Number of individual children supplied—1,374.

Total cost (food only)—£8,875.

Number of Centres—32 (6 of which are open during school holidays).

Free Milk.

Number of individual children supplied—15,780. (approx.).

Total quantity supplied (third pints)—2,966,130—123,589 gallons.

Total cost (milk only)—£27,828.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

The ascertainment of handicapped children has been helped by the records of Health Visitors of children under school age, returns from the School Attendance Department of all children removed from the registers who on account of prolonged illness were otherwise not in attendance at school and notification from hospitals and family doctors of such children. The records of the Tuberculosis Clinic have also been searched.

9 “physically handicapped” children are in hospital or sanatorium.

It is perhaps not realised that the ascertainment of handicapped children according to the provisions of the Education Act is of untold benefit and advantage to these boys and girls particularly in later life. Now that the system is in full operation, it means that there is one agency which is specially concerned with their health and educational problems and with their well-being both in and out of school.

Some of the children have been receiving education in hospital schools by arrangement with the Education Department and 6 are receiving home tuition by special teachers.

A number of delicate children now attending ordinary schools have been withdrawn from the Open Air School by their parents, or for poor attendance. Some have refused Open Air School education.

The following tables summarise the numbers by age group and disability as in January, 1959 and include children of 2 years and upwards:—

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY DISABILITY

Category Disability	In Special Schools		Awaiting Admission to Special Schools		In Ordinary Schools		In Independent Schools		Receiving Home Tuition		Not at School		In Hospitals or Sanatoria		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(1) Blind	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
(2) Partially sighted .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(3) Deaf	4	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
(4) Partially Deaf	6	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
(5) Delicate.....	50	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	55
(6) Physically Handicapped	13	9	1	1	...	...	...	...	4	2	2	...	6	4	26	16
(7) Educationally Sub-normal	80	67	1	...	51	17	...	...	2	...	6	6	...	...	140	90
(8) Maladjusted .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	10	...
(9) Epileptic	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Totals.....	159	145	4	1	51	20	8	...	7	2	8	6	6	4	243	178

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP

Age	In Special Schools		Awaiting Admission to Special Schools		In Ordinary Schools		In Independent Schools		Receiving Home Tuition		Not at School		In Hospitals or Sanatoria		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
2+	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
3+	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
4+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	1
5+	4	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	8	6
6+	11	6	1	...	3	2	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	17	10
7+	3	4	2	...	3	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	8	8
8+	12	10	...	1	...	2	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	1	16	14
9+	9	11	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	10	12
10+	13	15	...	...	4	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	19	18
11+	29	17	...	...	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	40	19
12+	21	20	...	...	7	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	30	22
13+	19	19	...	...	11	3	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	39	22
14+	27	26	...	...	11	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	40	30
15+	10	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	15
16+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	159	145	4	1	51	20	8	...	7	2	8	6	6	4	243	178

Educationally Sub-Normal.

During 1958, 70 children who were reported by the head teachers or brought to notice in other ways as very much retarded in educational progress, were specially examined by the school medical officers, whose recommendations are summarised below.

Educationally sub-normal:—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. For ordinary school with special provision	4	2	6
2. For special day school	14	11	25
3. For special boarding school	5	1	6
Referred to Child Guidance Clinic	5	2	7
Referred for further examination (scholars)	13	5	18
Referred for further examination (under 5)	4	3	7
Found not to be E.S.N.	—	1	1

26 children were recommended to be reported to the Local Health Authority with a view to their being sent to hospital or being kept under supervision or guardianship. The parents of one girl and one boy appealed to the Ministry of Education objecting to the local recommendation. The girl's case awaits the decision of the Ministry of Education and the boy's case was deferred for further consideration.

The case of a girl whose parents "appealed" in 1957 was confirmed and she was duly reported.

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) Under Section 57(3) Education Act, 1944, (incapable of receiving education at school)	10	8	18
(b) Under Section 57(5) Education Act, 1944, (requiring supervision on leaving school)	6	1	7

At the end of 1958, there were 230 educationally sub-normal children under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee, as under:—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
In special schools	68	54	122
In special residential schools ...	12	13	25
Awaiting admission to residen- tial schools	1	—	1
In maintained schools	51	17	68
In independent schools	—	—	—
Receiving home tuition	2	—	2
Not at School	6	6	12

Special Day E.S.N. School.

The curriculum of the school was the same as described in previous reports. There is accommodation for 120 children and at the end of the year, there were 122 children on register. 25 were admitted and 21 left. Of those leaving; 4 were sent to special residential schools, 5 were recommended for further supervision, 8 were reported to the Local Health Authority as ineducable, 1 was for home tuition, and the remaining 3 were placed in employment.

Cleadon Park Special School (Delicate and Partially Sighted and Physically Handicapped).

The school accommodates 150 children in five classes of 30. During the year the following children attended:—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
On 1st January, 1958	63	77	140
Entrants	22	15	37
Leavers	15	17	32
On 31st December, 1958	70	75	145

The pupils are classified as follows:—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Partially deaf	2	—
Malnutrition	1	—...
Anaemia	—	1
Non-infectious tuberculosis	1	3
Bronchitis and Asthma	8	4
Heart diseases	3	—
Bronchitis	11	8

Crippling defects	5	9
Debility	30	37
Nervous defects	5	7
Partially sighted	—	2
Epilepsy	4	4

Child Guidance Treatment.

40 children were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic in Sunderland during 1958. 33 were maladjusted, 7 were regarded as educationally sub-normal. 17 of these cases were sent by the Children's Officer, having been before the courts for stealing. By careful handling and understanding of the child's grievance and background, much can be achieved to help him to overcome his difficulties. We are again grateful for the valuable reports given by Dr. Robinson, and the able assistance of Miss Stirling and the staff of the Sunderland Education Authority Child Guidance Centre.

Nursery Classes.

These children are accommodated in Harton Infants' Department. There are no changes in the arrangements for teaching and medical supervision as described in previous reports.

During the periodic visits of the medical officer the following defects were discovered:—

Eye defects including squint ...	—
Tonsil and adenoids	1
Foot defect	2
Speech defect	—
Middle ear disease	—
Bronchitis	2

It is felt that in dealing with the younger children a whole day away from the mother may be a strain on the child and that a half day period would be more appropriate. It is hoped that in future two streams of children would attend the nursery classes. One class of children 4 to 5 years old, 30 in all, who would stay all day and two younger groups 3 to 4 years, (each 30 in number), who will attend either in the morning or afternoon. In this way 90 pre-school children

would have the benefit of this nursery education as against 60 at present. This would largely do away with the waiting list. The mothers of the younger age group have already been told of this project and appear to like the idea. Already a number have nominated the session they prefer.

Teachers and Teacher Candidates

Seventeen teachers, 12 male and 5 female and 23 teacher candidates, 10 male and 13 female were examined and X-rayed according to regulations. Of the teachers, 7 had defective vision and one had defective colour vision. Of the teacher candidates, 10 had defective vision, 2 had dental caries and one had bronchitis. All the teachers were regarded as fit for their profession, and of the candidates, except for one still under review, all were passed for college.

Other Examinations.

22 children were medically examined for the stage. All were granted the necessary certificate.

272 children temporarily employed out of school hours were examined in accordance with local Byelaws and none was found to be unfit.

Deaths among School Children.

The following is a statement of the causes of death during 1958 of children of school age (5 to 14).

Causes of Death	Boys		Girls		Total
	5—9 Years	10—14 Years	5—9 Years	10—14 Years	
Killed by a motor van ...	—	—	1	—	1
Peritonitis and ruptured appendix	—	1	—	—	1
Bacillary dysentery (Sonne) & Kernicterus	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	—	1	2	—	3

The *average annual deaths* among school children and pre-school children since 1901 were as follows:—

<i>Quinquennium</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1/4 yrs.</i>	<i>5/14 yrs.</i>	<i>Average Annual Deaths.</i>
1901-5	539	302	101	942
1906-10	455	266	82	803
1911-15	440	268	94	802
1916-20	388	251	136	775
1921-25	318	202	92	612
1926-30	240	146	88	474
1931-35	186	100	72	358
1936-40	136	59	53	248
1941-45	127	38	36	200
1946-50	105	23	15	143
1951-55	68	12	8	88
1956	40	3	6	49
1957	49	9	3	61
1958	49	8	3	60

This remarkable saving in child life is an index of the efficacy of maternity and child welfare services and later the school health services, together with the modern treatment of illness by both medical practitioners and hospitals, whilst the reduction of infectious diseases in childhood also contributes to this wonderful achievement.

Mental Health Clinic.

Dr. George McCoull, Superintendent of Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital held 10 sessions during the year and examined 24 children as well as adults and pre-school children, referred by the School Medical Staff, the Duly Authorised Officers and General Practitioners. These cases were mentally subnormal, and the low grades were usually recommended for institutional care.

DENTAL REPORT.

Staff.

Principal School Dental Officer: Mr. J. G. Walton, B.D.S. resigned with effect from 31st March, 1958 and Mr. K. Sissons, L.D.S. commenced on 20th April, 1958.

Dental Officers: Mr. A. C. K. Barnes, B.D.S.
(resigned on 31st April, 1958 and no full-time replacement could be obtained).

Mr. J. A. McKelvey, B.D.S.
(part-time with five morning sessions per week).

Mr. J. Blunt, L.D.S.
(commenced on 12th November with three morning sessions per week).

The total staff for the year therefore has only been 1.5 dental officers as compared with 2.67 in the previous year.

Two dental attendants are employed.

Equipment.

The replacement of older equipment has continued with the purchasing of a new dental chair and a new sterilizer.

Inspections.

The total number of children inspected during the year was 6,666 out of a school population of approximately 18,882.

Of those inspected 80.3% were found to suffer from dental defects of some kind compared with 76.4% the previous year.

The small number of children inspected was due to the shortage of staff.

Treatment.

(a) CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT

There has been a decrease of 1,538 in the number of fillings of permanent teeth and a slight decrease in the number of temporary teeth filled, as compared with the year 1957. This is once again due to the smaller number of half-days that could be devoted to treatment.

(b) ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT

The amount of orthodontic treatment performed has remained fairly constant, although fewer appliances have been fitted.

Difficult orthodontic cases are referred to Mr. G. Roberts, Consultant Orthodontist, General Hospital, Sunderland, for treatment and advice is also obtained from the Dental Hospital, Newcastle.

(c) EXTRACTIONS

There has been no great difference in the number of teeth extracted as compared with last year although the number of general anaesthetics administered has increased slightly. The services of an anaesthetist for an additional session per week would enable the dental staff to devote more of their time to conservative work.

All prosthetic and orthodontic appliances are supplied by an independent technician.

The help of the part-time local dental practitioners, which amounts to almost that of a full-time dental officer, is much appreciated.

PART I—Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained and Assisted Primary and Secondary Schools (Including Nursery and Special Schools).

TABLE A—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Age Groups Inspected (By year of birth)	No. of Pupils Inspected	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1954 and later	41	41	100	—	—
1953	521	516	99.04	5	0.96
1952	1,175	1,159	98.64	16	1.36
1951	74	74	100	—	—
1950	26	23	88.46	3	11.54
1949	18	18	100	—	—
1948	29	29	100	—	—
1947	1,406	1,403	99.79	3	0.21
1946	650	648	99.69	2	0.31
1945	32	32	100	—	—
1944	904	900	99.56	4	0.44
1943 and earlier	531	531	100	—	—
TOTAL	5,407	5,374	99.39	33	0.61

TABLE B—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

(excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Age Groups Inspected (By year of birth)	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Part II	Total individual pupils
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1954 and later	—	5	3
1953	1	80	70
1952	8	188	169
1951	10	10	10
1950	—	4	3
1949	—	3	3
1948	1	2	1
1947	86	78	152
1946	40	27	67
1945	4	7	11
1944	53	55	100
1943 and earlier	20	53	73
TOTAL	223	512	662

PART II — DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION DURING THE YEAR.
TABLE A — PERIODIC INSPECTIONS

PERIODIC INSPECTIONS									
Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease.	Entrants.			Leavers.		Others		Total
(1)	(2)	Requiring treatment (3)	Requiring observation (4)	Requiring treatment (5)	Requiring observation (6)	Requiring treatment (7)	Requiring observation (8)	Requiring treatment (9)	Requiring observation (10)
4	Skin	40	25	12	17	6	21	58	63
5	Eyes— a. Vision.. b. Squint.. c. Other...	10 22 9	10 36 9	89 9 1	67 11 3	134 15 3	72 23 6	233 46 13	149 70 18
6	Ears— a. Hearing b. Otitis c. Media.. d. Other ..	7	14	—	4	3	8	10	26
7	Nose and Throat ..	4	25	—	5	6	5	10	35
8	Speech	2	12	2	3	4	6	8	21
9	Lymphatic Glands	97	293	28	33	53	69	178	395
10	Heart	5	20	1	2	2	3	8	25
11	Lungs	3	74	—	3	4	11	7	88
12	Developmental	2	22	3	6	—	22	5	50
13	a. Hernia	9	58	4	21	3	57	16	136
	b. Other	1	7	2	—	2	4	5	11
	Orthopaedic—	2	7	—	2	2	16	4	25
	a. Posture ...	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	10
	b. Feet	50	41	16	20	9	29	75	90
	c. Other	19	42	28	43	7	49	54	134
14	Nervous System—	—	1	—	—	1	7	1	8
	a. Epilepsy ...	—	7	—	4	1	12	1	23
15	Psychological—								
	a. Development	1	13	—	6	4	9	5	28
	b. Stability ...	1	14	—	3	2	4	3	21
16	Abdomen	2	11	—	2	—	3	2	16
17	Other	—	7	4	5	8	13	12	25

TABLE B — SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

Defect Code No. (1)	Defects or Disease (2)	SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		Pupils requiring Treatment (3)	Pupils requiring Observation (4)
4	Skin	711	15
5	Eyes—a. Vision	301	—
	b. Squint	10	—
	c. Other	90	4
6	Ears—a. Hearing	13	11
	b. Otitis Media ...	8	—
	c. Other	75	11
7	Nose and Throat	100	54
8	Speech	4	—
9	Lymphatic Glands	10	1
10	Heart	2	1
11	Lungs	11	6
12	Developmental—		
	a. Hernia	—	—
	b. Other	—	—
13	Orthopaedic—		
	a. Posture	—	—
	b. Feet	8	1
	c. Other	33	13
14	Nervous System—		
	a. Epilepsy	—	—
	b. Other	2	—
15	Psychological—		
	a. Development ...	—	—
	b. Stability	3	—
16	Abdomen	—	—
17	Other	234	42

TABLE C — OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	1,646
Number of Re-inspections	1,775
	—
Total	3,421

TABLE D — INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

	1st Survey	2nd Survey
(a) Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons	20,122	19,850
Individual pupils examined	19,204	18,882
(b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	627	776
(c) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944) ...	673	803
(d) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944) ...	—	—

**PART III — TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED AND ASSISTED PRIMARY AND SECOND-
ARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING NURSERY AND SPECIAL
SCHOOLS)**

TABLE A — EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	82
Errors of refraction (including squint)	166
Total	248
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	1,316

**TABLE B — DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR,
NOSE AND THROAT**

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for diseases of the ear	58
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	188
(c) for other nose and throat condi- tions	31
Received other forms of treatment ...	73
Total	350
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids—	
(a) in 1958	—
(b) in previous years	4

TABLE C — ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	No. of cases known to have been treated
(a) Pupils treated at clinics or out- patients departments	79
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects	—
Total	79

TABLE D — DISEASES OF THE SKIN
(excluding uncleanness, for which see Table D of Part I)

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Ringworm—(a) Scalp	2
(b) Body	8
Scabies	12
Impetigo	60
Other skin diseases	598
Total	680

TABLE E — CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	40

TABLE F — SPEECH THERAPY

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated by speech therapists ...	34

TABLE G—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
(a) Pupils with minor ailments	40
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	—
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. Vaccin- ation	809
(d) Other than (a), (b) and (c) above. Please specify:	
Injuries 116; Debility 39; Cough 19	174
Observation 44; Stomach Upset 14	58
Enuresis 9; Worms 11	20
Bronchitis 16; Stomatitis 2	18
Rheumatism 5	5
Total (a) — (d)	1,124

PART IV — Dental Inspection and Treatment Carried out by the Authority

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:— | |
| (a) At Periodic Inspections | 4,946) |
| |) Total (1) |
| (b) As Special | 1,720) |
| | 6,666 |
| (2) Number found to require treatment | 4,945 |
| (3) Number offered treatment | 3,407 |
| (4) Number actually treated | 2,630 |
| (5) Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment, including those recorded at 11(h) | 6,077 |

(6) Half days devoted to:			
(a) Periodic (School) Inspection	35)	Total (6)	792
(b) Treatment	757)		
(7) Fillings:			
(a) Permanent Teeth	2,511)	Total (7)	2,642
(b) Temporary Teeth	131)		
(8) Number of Teeth filled:			
(a) Permanent Teeth	2,029)	Total (8)	2,151
(b) Temporary Teeth	122)		
(9) Extractions:			
(a) Permanent Teeth	721)	Total (9)	3,775
(b) Temporary Teeth	3,054)		
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction			1,200
			<hr/>
(11) Orthodontics:			
(a) Cases commenced during the year			69
(b) Cases carried forward from previous year			176
(c) Cases completed during the year			41
(d) Cases discontinued during the year			23
(e) Pupils treated with appliances			158
(f) Removable appliances fitted			140
(g) Fixed appliances fitted			—
(h) Total attendances			865
(12) Number of pupils supplied with artificial teeth			33
(13) Other operations:			
(a) Permanent Teeth	822)	Total (13)	874
(b) Temporary Teeth	52)		

